

### Acknowledgements

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## The taxonomic status of *Phyllomyias reiseri*

by Douglas F. Stotz

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The tyrannulet *Phyllomyias reiseri* was described from a single male specimen collected in Piauí, northeastern Brazil (Hellmayr 1905). In 1927, Hellmayr considered *reiseri* to be a subspecies of *Xanthomyias virescens* of eastern Brazil along with *urichi* of northern Venezuela (Hellmayr 1927). Zimmer (1955) resurrected *reiseri* as a distinct species and reported new specimens from Paraguay. More recently, Traylor (1979, 1982) again returned *reiseri* to *virescens* as a subspecies, restricting it to Piauí. Traylor recognized it based only on wing length and, with the limited material available to him, did not feel that plumage characters consistently separated *reiseri* from *virescens*.

I recently discovered 4 additional specimens of *reiseri* in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP). Two of these specimens were collected in July 1963 at Brasília (15°47'S, 51°11'W) by José Hidasí. The other 2 specimens, from Jaraguá (15°45'S, 49°20'W), Goiás and Sant'Ana do Paranaíba (19°40'S, 51°11'W), Mato Grosso do Sul, were previously reported by Pinto (1944) as *virescens* and accepted as such by Zimmer (1955). I compared these specimens with the 3 *reiseri* (2 from

TABLE 1  
Measurements (mm) of *Phyllomyias* spp.

		Wing	Tail	Tarsus	
<i>reiseri</i>	$\bar{x}$	57.0	51.4	15.5	
	s.d.	1.61	2.14	0.48	
	range	54.0–59.0	48.2–54.2	15.1–16.3	
	n	7	7	7	
<i>urichi</i>	$\bar{x}$	57.2	53.2	15.7	
	s.d.	0.76	3.20	0.31	
	range	56.5–58.0	49.6–55.8	15.4–16.0	
	n	3	3	3	
<i>virescens</i>	♂	$\bar{x}$	62.0	58.7	16.3
		s.d.	1.99	2.98	0.47
		range	58.5–65.5	53.9–63.5	15.4–17.0
		n	32	33	26
	♀	$\bar{x}$	59.6	54.9	16.4
		s.d.	2.09	2.68	0.29
		range	55.5–63.0	51.9–60.6	16.0–17.1
		n	43	41	33

Paraguay and one from Piauí) examined by Zimmer at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and with series of *virescens* at AMNH, MZUSP and the Field Museum of Natural History.

As noted by Hellmayr and by Zimmer, *Phyllomyias reiseri* has several plumage and size characters that distinguish it from *virescens*. *P. reiseri* differs in plumage from *virescens* by: paler yellow underparts with less of an olive wash across the breast; brighter, yellower green upperparts; crown feathers tipped with grey (the crown of *virescens* is concolor with the back); whiter, less greenish-yellow wingbars; and a different face pattern. In general the face pattern of *virescens* is more prominent than that of *reiseri*. In *reiseri* the ear coverts are yellow, little, if at all, tipped with olive, while in *virescens* these coverts are tipped extensively with dusky or olive. The lores and cheeks of *reiseri* are yellowish-white, while in *virescens* these feathers are grizzled with grey.

The wing and tail of *reiseri* are notably shorter than in *virescens* (see Table 1), in which the males have significantly longer wings and tails than females. In *reiseri*, although I have seen only 5 sexed specimens, there is no indication of sexual size dimorphism. As a result, male *reiseri* barely overlap male *virescens* in wing and tail measurements. On the other hand, the overlap of *reiseri* with female *virescens* is substantial, although the means are significantly smaller in *reiseri*. Tarsal measurements also average smaller in *reiseri*, but overlap broadly with *virescens*.

None of the 78 specimens of *Phyllomyias virescens* I examined shows any approach to *reiseri* in plumage characters, although an occasional female overlaps in wing and tail measurements with *reiseri*. These small females, however, appear to be scattered throughout the range of *virescens*; there are 4 from a long series from Misiones, Argentina, one from Rio Grande do Sul, one from São Paulo and one from Campanario in Mato Grosso do Sul. Only the Mato Grosso do Sul specimen is from a locality where intergradation from *reiseri* might be a factor.

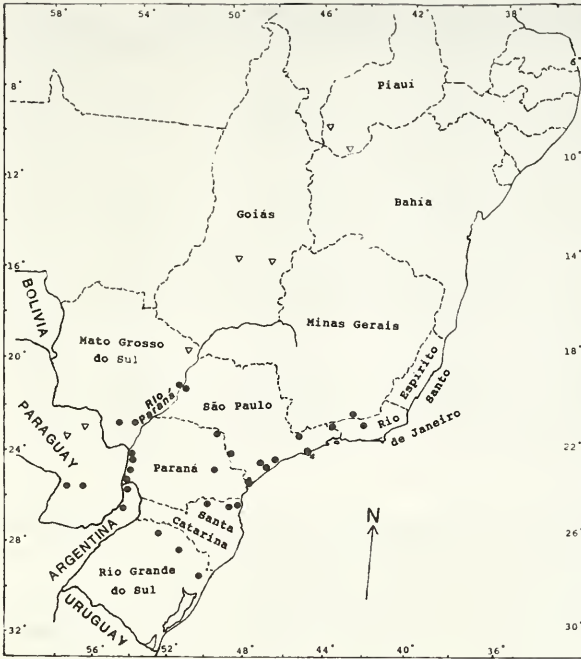


Figure 1. Ranges of *Phyllomyias reiseri* and *P. virescens* in eastern Brazil and neighbouring countries. Open triangles: *P. reiseri*; closed circles: *P. virescens*. Only localities for examined specimens of *P. virescens* are included.

*Phyllomyias virescens* is an uncommon flycatcher in humid Atlantic forest (including the Rio Paraná drainage) up to c. 1000 m in elevation. The localities from which *reiseri* is known are all in the cerrado region, so it must occur either in scrub or, perhaps more likely, in gallery woodlands. In either circumstance, *reiseri* apparently occupies a different habitat from *virescens*.

Zimmer (1955) split *reiseri* because he had specimens from as far apart as Paraguay and Piauí, and Pinto's report of *virescens* in the intervening region split the known distribution of *reiseri*. Zimmer felt that this distributional anomaly along with the lack of intermediate specimens required that the 2 taxa be considered distinct species. With the re-identification of the published Pinto specimens as *reiseri*, the distributional pattern is simpler, the range of *reiseri* falling entirely to the north and west of that of *virescens* (Fig. 1). Nevertheless, in view of the several plumage and size differences, the lack of intermediate specimens and the differences in habitat suggested by the ranges of the 2 forms, I agree with Zimmer that *reiseri* is best treated as a species distinct from *virescens*.

The status of the Venezuelan taxon, *urichi*, remains less clear. This poorly known tyrannulet from the mountains of northeastern Venezuela (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978) resembles *reiseri* closely, sharing the grey tips to crown feathers, whiter wingbars and smaller size, although it is not as small as *reiseri* (Table 1). It would seem that it should be associated with *reiseri* rather than with *virescens*. Although this arrangement results

in an odd biogeographic pattern, a similar range disjunction between northern Venezuela and the cerrado region of Brasil exists in *Basileuterus flaveolus*.

The songs of both *reiseri* and *urichi* are apparently unknown. Comparisons of their songs with those of *virescens* when they become available will help clarify the relationships within this group.

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## Two new subspecies of *Formicivora serrana* (Hellmayr) from southeastern Brazil, and notes on the type locality of *Formicivora deluzae* Ménétriés

by L. P. Gonzaga & J. F. Pacheco

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The Serra Antbird *Formicivora serrana* was described by Hellmayr (1929a: 377) on the basis of 8 specimens from Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, correcting an error he had made some years earlier (Hellmayr 1924) and followed by Sneath (1927), that involved the misapplication of the names *F. deluzae* Ménétriés, 1835 and *F. nigricollis* Ménétriés, 1835 to the bird which was later given the name *serrana*.